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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4502

RELEASED IN FULL

B (6)

November 8, 2000

The Honorable Anne Patterson
Ambassador
US Embassy Bogota

FAX: 57-1-315-2197

Dear Ambassador Patterson:

I am faxing you a copy of an August 30, 2000, letter I sent to Secretary Albright, regarding the Colombian Air Force's conduct in December 1998 at Santo Domingo.

While I look forward to the Secretary's reply, I am writing because I want to be sure there is no misunderstanding about the application of the so-called "Leahy Law," which was the subject of my letter to the Secretary. The law requires that if the Secretary of State has "credible evidence" that a unit of a foreign security force has committed gross violations of human rights, United States funds to that unit must cease, unless the foreign government is taking effective measures to bring the individuals responsible to justice. The Secretary's determination of whether credible evidence exists is unrelated to any actions or investigations the foreign government may engage in. It is my understanding that in the Santo Domingo case, there was eye witness testimony, forensic evidence, and an FBI report, as well as evidence that top Armed Forces officials attempted to cover up the Air Force's role. I am not aware of any measures being taken to bring the responsible individuals to justice.

Thank you for your consideration.

With best regards,


PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator

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